



## "He Is Risen"

EASTER SERMON BY REV. S. O. THORLAKSSON

"He is Risen" was the theme of the Easter sermon given Sunday morning by Rev. S. O. Thorlaksson at the Christian Layman Church, 1707 Ward St., in which he declared that "newness of life" comes to us after we make room in our hearts for the Risen Christ. Rev. Thorlaksson, a former missionary to Japan, now Iceland's honorary vice consul for Northern California, is pastor of the church where he spoke yesterday at a joint Issei and young people's worship service.

"Look into the empty tomb and hear the voice say—"He is Risen. He is not here. Behold the place where they laid Him." He said, What a Message! A Message of Resurrection. Recall the Christmas Message—"Unto you is born this day, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

"Both times the people who heard these messages were afraid." Perfectly natural! They were not prepared for the "good news" in either case. Yes, He had been crucified, was dead and buried. But now He is risen. The Christmas Message and that of Easter have become one—"Unto you is risen this day, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." Surely, it was too good to be true.

"This is why Easter has become the day of most importance to the Christian. To be sure, there is Christmas Day, the birthday of the Holy One of God, but merely a beginning. And then comes Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian Church, but merely a beginning. But Easter day, the birthday of resurrection hope, not merely a beginning, but a culmination, the day of Christ's victory over death, the day of the consummation of God's holy promise and revelation from eternity!

"Were it not so, if Christ had not risen from

the dead why celebrate Christmas, why Pentecost, why perpetuate a Christian Church? Hear what Paul says—"If Christ be not risen your faith is vain." And about the Church and its teachers he adds—"they are found false witnesses of God."

### More Than Historic Fact

"This Easter Message is more than the record of an historic fact which influenced greatly the beginnings and developments of Christianity. Above all, it conveys to us of today a sure and unmistakable proof of God's eternal love for mankind. For, as Christ's death is a token that "He was delivered up for our trespasses," so is His resurrection a token that the same Jesus "was raised for our justification." If Christ be not risen, our condition would be as the shipwrecked man whom we might rescue from the raging waves, and then leave on a barren shore to perish from cold and hunger.

"Yes, we must daily repent and rise in order that we may walk in the newness of life. We must daily renew our fellowship with the risen Lord. Thus only will Christ's resurrection become a reality for us, and the newness of life will mean that we live in Christ and Christ in us. Herein is our confidence in the resurrection hope.

"But how may this confidence become a fixed assurance in my life? Ask yourself—"Has the risen Lord had his resurrection in me? Does Christ now live in me?" If so, you will know that you are daily renewed in humility, and saved from that arrogant self-sufficiency which always is the ruin of man's life and happiness. Christ said—"Whosoever would become great among you shall be your servant."

"Ask again—"Does Christ live in me?" If so,

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you are daily renewed in cheerfulness. The many trials and tribulations of this life cannot crush us. Our fellowship with the risen Christ upholds us. "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" said the Lord.

## Renewed in Truth

"Ask yet again—"Does Christ live in me?" If so, you are daily renewed in truth. How difficult to live truthfully, to be true to God, to one's fellow men, and to oneself! But this quality too can be acquired by constant fellowship with your Risen Saviour who Himself is the Way and the Truth. Before Pilate He said—"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world that I should bear witness to the truth."

"Once more ask your self—"Does Christ live in me?" If so, then you are daily renewed in love. How often we fall short in this respect—in our love to God and to our fellowmen! "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; and thy neighbor as thyself." He knew that man's inclinations are selfish, and that we are too prone to place even before the love of God the love of ourselves. But this too you can overcome and outgrow by faithful fellowship with your Risen Master who has revealed to us the true meaning of love, and said—"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

"Thus, the Resurrection of Jesus will ever renew in you and me, humility, cheerfulness, truth and love. He is risen. He has risen again in me! Therefore, I know that my Redeemer liveth."



## WHAT DOES CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MEAN?

Faithful Church Membership requires: that I attend its services regularly, contribute to its support gladly to the extent of my ability, and that I make daily supplications for it in my prayers, that I give the best I have to it, not of gifts and services only, but also of love, and personal helpfulness.

## THE TREASURER'S REPORT

By GISSUR ELIASSON

It is hoped that the following list of acknowledgements and receipts of subscription dues may serve to remind those of our subscribers who have as yet not paid for the Messenger this year, to do so as soon as possible. While our publication is operated with the utmost economy in relation to its interesting contents and good appearance, it must be apparent to everyone that some funds are required for stamps, envelopes and printing.

The annual Synodical convention will be held before long, at which time the financial position of our paper will be examined and discussed. A real effort must therefore be made to balance the budget, so to speak. Most of our subscribers will know whether their remittances have been sent in or not for this past year, and it is because we have confidence in the accuracy of their memories and still have faith in their desire to see the Messenger survive that this appeal is made. To neglect this small obligation can only be constructed to denote deterioration and decay among our membership as a church organization. This is therefore the time to show that such is not the case and that there is still sufficient loyalty to an approved purpose and sufficient interest and vitality in our organization to secure the permanence of a co-operative enterprise that has the official sanction and support of our Synod.

Dr. H. Sigmar has recently sent us a list of eleven subscription renewals from the Vancouver Congregation, whose names appear hereunder. Many other friends of the Messenger have sent in their individual remittances some even have taken care of the next year or two. To all these people we say "thank you" and hope to be able to include many many more good names in the next list—

Dr. H. Sigmar, 995W-17th Ave.

Vancouver .....	1.00
Mrs. C. Helgason, 3924 Fraser Ave. ....	1.00
Miss G. Christopherson, 4491 Harriot St. ....	1.00
Mrs. K. Skardal, 1555 Gravely St. ....	1.00
Mr. S. I. Gillis, 2950 Heather St. ....	1.00
Mr. B. Thorlacius, 1176 Barclay St. ....	1.00
Mr. B. E. Kolbeins, 557W-22nd Ave. ....	1.00
Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson, 4051 Cypress St. ....	1.00
Mr S. J. Sigmar, 7925 French St. ....	1.00
Mr. C. Finnbogason, 6925 Knight Rd. ....	1.00
Mr. H. Sigurdson, 383N Glyndale Ave. ....	1.00
Mr. N. Bardal, Ste. 1 Bardal Blk. Wpg. ....	1.00
Mr. R. Gudmundson, Vidir, Man. ....	2.00
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Johnson, 144 Borebank St.	
Winnipeg .....	1.00

Mrs. Chas. C. Inglehart, High Hill, Sask. ....	1.00
Mrs. G. F. Gunnarson, Milton, N.D. ....	1.00
Miss Runa Jonasson, Vidir, Man. ....	3.00
Mrs. Emily Long, 612 Spadina Cres. Saskatoon .....	1.00
Mrs. Oli Magnusson, Box 23 Leslie, Sask. ....	2.00
Mrs. S. M. Backman, 833 Garfield St. Winnipeg .....	1.00
Mrs. G. Thorliefson, Langruth, Man. ....	1.00
Mrs. B. Halldorson, Langruth, Man. ....	1.00
Mrs. Wm. Ogmundson, Blaine, Wash. ....	1.00
Harold Ogmundson, Route 1, Blaine, Wash. ....	1.00
Mrs. Bertina Waglie, Box 756, Blaine. Wash. ....	1.00
H. Czerwinski, 35 Carlyle Apts. Wpg. ....	1.00



### JESUS THE ANOINTED ONE

He came to free man from the consequences of sin—this Jesus who was reviled and persecuted and finally crucified by those whom He had come to save. Opening the eyes of the blind—alleviating the suffering of those who were sick, both in body and mind. He preached to the poor and contrite in heart. Tidings of joy poured forth from His lips, but mankind ignored His words and scoffed at His deeds of kindness.

Behold Him as He is—Jesus Christ—the Anointed of the Father . . .

*Behold the hills and valleys  
That knew His gentle tread:  
The lilies by the roadside—  
The songbirds overhead;  
Or Galilee at sunset,  
Its bosom's blushing crest  
A panorama—painted  
By the sunglow in the West.*

*For Jesus was anointed  
To preach His Father's will—  
That Man should love His neighbor!  
(His words are binding still!)  
He healed the blind and sickly;  
He fed the hungry heart;  
And used the birds and flowers  
His teachings to impart!*

*He taught us to be patient  
In face of hate inflamed;  
And suffer persecution  
With spirit unashamed.  
For we must never falter  
Before the evil foe;  
But stand, a fearless legion—  
To victory we go!*

*To victory, my Jesus—  
Though Death will SEEM the king.  
The resurrection dawneth;  
And death shall lose its sting!  
For Jesus was anointed  
To set the sinner free;  
Believe—and Death is vanquished—  
For YOU He died—and me!*

ALBERT L. HALLDORSSON.

### THE STEWARDSHIP LETTER

Glenboro, Manitoba, April 5, 1949

Dear Pastors and Councilmen:

#### A Beginning

This is the first attempt in an endeavor to send out to the pastors and councilmen of our Icelandic Synod a letter containing information, news, and facts of the "wider work" (heildarstarf) of our Lutheran Church. The wider work of our Church includes Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Social Missions, Christian Higher Education, Lutheran World Action, and other causes. These are all, important aspects of the great benevolent work of our Church. Let us all dedicate ourselves to a greater "stewardship" in His Name in this year ahead of us.

#### Stewardship Conference

The annual Stewardship and Benevolence Conference of our United Lutheran Church was held in Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, on March 15th and 16th. All of the 32 Stewardship Secretaries of the 32 Synods of the U.L.C. were present. Yours truly was happy to represent the Icelandic Synod at this important convention. It was inspiring, educational and "informational". We talked of the important causes of our Church, and what the people of our U.L.C.A. all over Canada and the United States are giving in support of these tremendously important causes. We learned that our people had given 3.6 million dollars towards "apportioned benevolences": (home missions, foreign missions, social missions, Christian higher education, etc.) This was more than ever before (the "goal" was a little less than 3 million), but it still did not meet all the crying needs of these aspects of our Lord's work. Remembering that this is the Lord's work, we must gird ourselves for greater "Stewardship" for His sake.

#### What We Did in 1948

Twenty-six of the 32 synods of the U.L.C. gave at least 100% of their "Quota" towards this great benevolent cause. 3 of the synods gave over 200% of their goal! 14 went up to 150% and beyond. Six of the synods gave less than 100%. Unfortunately our Icelandic Synod was at the bottom of the list. We gave only \$1200, (about 25c per confirmed member) which was 21% of the \$5,800, which was our fair, proportionate share. It is up to us, the pastors and councilmen, to inform our people of the needs of these tremendous causes. Our people will give when they know of the sacred work and crying needs that must be met. Each congregation of our Synod should form a "Stewardship



and Benevolence Committee" to study these causes and our responsibility towards them. First Lutheran, in Winnipeg, has just organized such a committee with S. O. Bjerring as chairman.

### Lutheran World Action

Lutheran World Action and Lutheran World Relief has been a major concern of our Church's wider work. It has been our opportunity these last few years to assist in the spiritual re-establishment and material rehabilitation of our Lutheran brethren overseas. Much remains to be done. The needs are measured in terms of thousands of almost helpless men, women, and

children —, our own brothers and sisters in the Lutheran faith. About one-third of our gifts this year will be used for resettlement of "DP's" and refugees, about one-third for the suffering churches in Europe, and about one-third for orphaned missions and other overseas causes. In the Name of the Compassionate Savior let's continue to bring new hope, — yes, and the opportunity for a new life. They need help and with a little help from us, they can do so much to help themselves.

*Yours in His Name,*

ERIC H. SIGMAR, *Stewardship Sec'y,*  
Icelandic Synod.

## NOTES from OUR PARISHES

### NOTES FROM VANCOUVER

The Fifth Anniversary of The Icelandic Lutheran Congregation of Vancouver, was celebrated on March 8th, at the Blue Danube Hall on E. Hastings Street. The programme was a Minstrel Show sponsored by the Luther League, and under the able leadership of our Church Organist, Mr. Stefan Solvason. A few young people outside of the membership came in to help, and a few adult members of our group also helped. Besides that Mr. Solvason had secured the assistance of two men outside of our own group, who were very successful and artistic in their performance. Altogether the performance of the whole group of 32 was very creditable, and reflected the excellent leadership of Mr. Solvason, as well as the hard work and sincere application of the group.

Mr. and Mrs. Solvason showed their good spirit and fine co-operation by having practically all the practices at their home.

A capacity audience attended, and gave ample evidence of thoroughly enjoying the performance, in their generous and hearty applause.

The congregation has excellent material and outstanding support for its activities in its fine group of young people.

The President of Congregation, Mr. L. H. Thorlakson and the Pastor both spoke briefly during intermissions, and highly commended the leader, the assisting artists, and the whole group for their excellent performance. And they thanked Mr. Solvason, The Luther League, and all concerned for their interest in the growth and development of our young congregation, which was shown among other things, by the fact that they designated all the proceeds

to The Church Building Fund. And they were able to turn over to the trustees a good sum after all expenses had been met.

After the program the women's Auxiliary provided a very fine lunch, and a social hour was spent. Mrs. J. Jonsson of Lulu Island, a member of the W.A., provided the anniversary cake for the occasion.

Our Easter Service was held at 7:30 p.m. on Easter Sunday. The weather was lovely, and a very large congregation filled the church to capacity. Dr. Sigmar preached on the topic "Life Abundant" from the text St. Johns Gospel 10:10. A large choir, of which a good percentage were young people lead the congregation in the singing and Mr. Solvason was at the organ. Special numbers for this festive occasion were: An Anthem by the choir, the singing of a baptismal hymn — "Blessed Jesus", by Mrs. H. Sigmar, by special request, and a Duet — "O Divine Redeemer" — by Miss Margaret Sigmar and Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson. Both the choir singing and the special items were artistically rendered and greatly appreciated by the large congregation.

At the close of the Easter Service all who attended were invited to a Social Hour with coffee and delicacies, which was sponsored by the women's auxiliary of our congregation in co-operation with Pastor and Mrs. Sigmar, whose grandson, Curtis Kristjanson from Seattle, was one of the children baptized at the Easter Service.

\* \* \*

*Marriage services performed by Dr. H. Sigmar recently are as follows:*

Barbara M. L. Fosolan and Noel E. C.

Brussow, both of Vancouver, B.C., at Redeemer Church, April 8th.

Annetta M. Bjarnason and Helgie Steinberg both of Vancouver, B.C., April 9th, at the home of Mrs. O. Bjarnason.

Frances Gudny Rafnkelsson and Sidney Fraser both of Vancouver, B.C., April 17th, at Danish Church.

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*Services conducted by Pastor Sigmar during Holy Week and the Easter Festival:*

Palm Sunday: Redeemer 11 a.m., Icelandic Lutheran—at 7.30 p.m. Wednesday of Holy Week Hafn-O.P.H. At 2 p.m. Holy Thursday, Icelandic Service Lutheran Church Blaine 2.30 p.m. Good Friday Redeemer 11. Icelandic Lutheran 3 p.m. Easter Sunday—Redeemer 11. Icelandic Lutheran 7.30.

The Luther League Association of Vancouver of which our L. L. is a member sponsored the singing of Stainers "Crucifixion on Good Friday at 8:00 p.m. and on Easter, Sunrise Service in Stanley Park at 7:30 a.m.

\* \* \*

*Baptisms in our Parish since January 1st 1949:*

January 30th — At the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Sigurdson, 1305W 48th Avenue:

DOUGLAS CAMERON—Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Aitken, Vancouver, B.C.

Robert Craig and Gail Elaine. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Asmundson, Vancouver. Many friends were invited to the Sigurdson home, and Mrs. Sigurdson served a fine lunch.

February 20th At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Johannesson 2334W 6th Avenue, Vancouver, when two of their children, WAVERLY BRIAN and SHERRIE DELEINE were baptized. Mr. and Mrs. I. Johannesson, parents of the host from Baldur, Manitoba, were among the guests present. Mrs. Paul Johannesson served a fine lunch to those present.

February 28th — At the home of the child's Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Oli Stefansson 3940 Eaton Street, Vancouver, B.C.

MARGARET LORRAINE—Parents Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pentland. Rev. E. H. Sigmar of Glenboro, Manitoba performed the baptism. Mrs. Stefansson and Mrs. Pentland served a fine lunch to those present.

April 3rd — At the Danish Church.

MARY LOUISE and KENNETH GORDON—Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Miles, Vancouver, B.C.

MARGARET EMILY—Parents Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bjarnason, Vancouver, B.C.

BEVERLY LYN—Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Leo Einarson, Vancouver, B.C.

April 17th — At the Easter Service.

JO-ANN DOROTHY—Parents, Mrs. Oddney and the late Mr. E. J. Koot, Vancouver, B.C.

LINDA HELGA ANNA BJORG—Parents Mr. and Mrs. Magnus L. Joel, Vancouver, B.C.

CURTIS ELVIN SIGMAR—Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elvin O. Kristjanson, Seattle, Wash.

There have also been two adult baptisms in the Parish recently.

IRENE MARGUERITE JOHANNESSON, and MELVA DELEINE WILLIAMS, of Vancouver, B.C.

\* \* \*

About 40 "out of town" visitors have signed our Visitors' Book at the Church since January 1st, 1949. There have probably been other visitors, whose names did not get into the book. Space does not permit giving the names of all the visitors here. We always welcome visitors and are very glad to have them with us.

Members of our congregation were happy to see S. J. Sigmar at the Easter Service, with his family. He was given a special welcome at the reception. This was his first appearance at the Church since before his illness.

Mrs. Jonina Johnston is at present in hospital. We hope she will soon be able to be among us again, and in much improved health.

Mrs. E. A. Jackson of 2930 Victoria Dr., gave a birthday party in honor of her brother, Ofeigur Sigurdson of Markerville, Alta., who spends his winters at the coast. Quite a large number of guests attended. Delicious lunch with special Icelandic dishes was served by the hostess. Speeches were delivered and there was singing by the group with Mrs. H. Sigmar at the piano. Mr. Sigurdson looked happy and fit. He is 87 years young.

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## BLAINE PT.-ROBERTS NOTES

Confirmation day in the Blaine congregation has been set for Whitsunday, June 5. At this time six youths will make their confession of faith and be received into full membership. On Palm Sunday, Joan Marit, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dunn, Jr., was baptized into the Christian faith at the Blaine church. Easter Sunday, Holy Communion was celebrated at both churches in the parish. At the Blaine service the following gifts were dedicated: Candlesticks given by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wells and Mrs. Marian Irwin; Offering plates given by Mrs. Bertina Wagelie and Miss Betty Wagelie; Piano given by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Stefansson and family; Altar cloth given by Mrs. A. Wunderlich of Philadelphia; and an Altar cross given by the pastor and his wife. On April

5, Mrs. Helga Samuelson, pioneer settler at Pt. Roberts passed on to her eternal reward. The service honoring her memory was conducted by the pastor at the Pt. Roberts church on April 9. On April 7, Mrs. Lena Ahrens, mother of the vice-president of the Blaine church council, Mr. Paul Ahrens, passed away. Funeral services were held April 11, with the pastor in charge. Union services were held in Blaine, with the majority of the city churches participating, during Holy Week.

### A MESSAGE FROM MOUNTAIN

At the last convention of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod held at Gimli, Manitoba, I had the good fortune of being one of two laymen elected to represent that body at a convention of the United Lutheran Church in America held in Philadelphia, Pa. October 6th to the 14th, 1949.

From the viewpoint of a layman I am giving my impression of some of the subject matter that came up for discussion at that convention. To say the least I was very much surprised at the number of problems to be solved and impressed with the sincerity with which they were discussed and finally disposed of by the convention.

At some conventions that I have attended the program has been made out for the delegates to approve without giving an opportunity for the subject matter to be discussed. In other words, a packed convention. Not so at this convention. It seemed as if every resolution was amended and reamended until it was satisfactory to the majority. A truly democratic procedure.

The most striking revelation was the leadership the layman is taking in the work of the church. There are now more than five hundred men belonging to the Lutheran Layman's Movement for Stewardship who pay a hundred dollar membership fee for financing their program and teaching stewardship in the church.

There were many laymen who spoke before the convention. I will mention one of them because he is quite well known to most of us through radio, Everett Mitchell, director of the NBC Farm and Home Hour. He told the convention that a Christian cannot merely love God on Sunday and expect Christianity to count in the world. "If a fellow believes in Jesus Christ he has got to show it with everything he does, I'm a radio broadcaster but I am not just working for NBC, I'm working for God too."

The most colorful presentation was the

special program of the Board of Foreign Missions from each of the six mission fields in authentic costumes, natives from Argentina, British Guiana, China, India, Japan and Liberia. The manner in which the program under the leadership of the U.L.C.A. in providing missionaries and material aid to the thousands of families who are disorganized because of the war was truly a revelation to the 572 delegates and 900 visitors who attended the convention daily.

The recommendation of the Social Mission was a program of continued efforts by pastors, congregations, and all church auxiliaries in advising with leaders of our government in establishing peaceful relations with other nations. Complete co-operation with other church bodies as manifested at the convention towards that objective would be a potential factor in averting another world war.

The convention was guided by its chaplain, Dr. Oscar Blackwelder, with devotions preceding each session as well as the closing prayers.

FREEMAN EINARSON, *Mountain, N.D.*

### A BUSINESS MAN'S PRAYER

(Selected by W. J. R. Horsburgh,  
London, England.)

*Lord, prosper my affairs this day;  
Take care of all I have at risk;  
Give the means to pay my way,  
And, if Thou wilt, make business brisk.  
Help me in all my dealings, Lord,  
Whate'er befall; Thou knowest well  
Without Thee I could ill afford  
To buy or borrow, lend or sell.  
Oh! make me humble in success;  
In failure make me strong to bear;  
Lead me in ways of righteousness;  
To friend and rival make me fair.  
Uphold me in the common strife;  
Give me the grace to work and plan;  
And, in the market-place of Life,  
Oh! keep me, Lord, an honest man.*

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The Sixty-fourth Convention of our Synod will be held in the Argyle Parish beginning on Wednesday, June 22nd, 1949, in the evening, and ending on the following Saturday. A visiting speaker from New York will be the Rev. Dr. R. H. Gerberding, Executive Secretary of Home Missions, of the United Lutheran Church in America.



## Canadian Lutheran World Relief

With the close of the year 1948 the first chapter, comprising the first three years in the history of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, came to an end. It was an exciting chapter because for the first time in the annals of Lutheranism in Canada, we worked together in a common project. Barriers which had kept us apart were set aside in our love to save the lives of our brethren across the sea. What was accomplished will be reviewed in the reports of our treasurer and executive secretary.

During the period, 1946-1948, Canadian Lutheran World Relief appealed directly to Lutherans in Canada for gifts with which to alleviate the gross suffering and misery in Europe. In some instances we were criticized that these efforts were interfering with the success of similar undertakings within synodical boundaries. It was also pointed out that we lacked official status except with the Government of Canada.

The needs of our European brethren were desperate. In 1946 we were the only relief agency of Canada or the United States permitted to operate in the British Zone of Germany. As Canadian Lutherans we saw the challenge of our responsibilities. And in that crisis we felt that the resolving of conflicting views must necessarily be delayed.

Last summer the time appeared opportune to give careful thought to our relationships within the framework of other existing Lutheran organizations extending into Canada. The result was that the executive of Canadian Lutheran World Relief proposed to the three districts in Canada of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and to the Canada Committee of Lutheran World Federation, that beginning January 1, 1949, Canadian Lutheran World Relief be the official operational arm of both groups in immigration and relief. The proposal also included the understanding that the three districts in Canada of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Canada Committee of Lutheran World Federation provide financial support to carry forward an immigration and relief program agreed upon. This entire proposal was accepted by all to whom it was addressed, which included the aforementioned bodies. May this new chapter, or era, in which we shall function as an official operating arm of all Lutherans in Canada in the field of immigration and relief, prove to be an even greater blessing to those who need our help,

and may it also be a means whereby we who work together draw closer to one another in love and understanding.

### Canadian Lutheran World Relief Activities 1948

#### A. Relief

Let me review briefly what has been done during the past year.

(1) The \$75,000 Child-Feeding Program undertaken at our last annual meeting was completed successfully. Of this, \$25,000 was sent to Sweden to pay for herring purchased by Evangelisches Hilfswerk for feeding refugee children fleeing with their parents from East Prussia. Food to the amount of \$50,000 was sent to Hilfswerk for feeding of children in the Eastern Zone.

(2) Since October, approximately \$500 was spent each month to purchase food for Camp Muehlenberg. With these shipments of food, used clothing was also sent.

(3) Both Winnipeg and Kitchener warehouses reported a steady ingathering of used clothing. The making of layettes by women's groups across Canada has stimulated interest in the need for clothing. Expenses in shipping clothing overseas were not a small item.

(4) On April 29th, Dr. Eugen Geurstenmaier, director of Evangelisches Hilfswerk, met with the executive committee and friends of C.L.W.R. to discuss relief activities and problems.

#### B. Immigration

(1) In March, Rev. and Mrs. H. Erdmann returned to Canada. As our first representative at Camp Muehlenberg in Hanover, he gave effective assistance in setting up and establishing the organization and operation of this Camp under the auspices of C.C.C.R.R.

(2) Col. L. W. Meinzen was appointed to succeed Rev. H. Erdmann at Camp Muehlenberg. Early in spring Col. and Mrs. Meinzen proceeded to Germany. Under his able leadership the affairs of the Camp and the interests of Lutheran refugees have been served most acceptably.

C.L.W.R. continues its leading role, as it has from the very beginning, in C.C.C.R.R., and at the end of January 1949, Lutherans to the number of 3,181 had come to Canada under its auspices.

(3) Dr. Howard Hong of Lutheran World Federation visited Winnipeg, May 26, 1948, and described to the Executive Committee the recently established Resettlement Division of

L.W.F. The position of C.L.W.R. in this plan was made clear.

(4) An interesting and important feature of our work in immigration is the "Seed Movement." The first group to come to Canada under this plan consisted of German Balts. While we did not help a large number at one time because of our limited finances, the possibilities of this plan are great and in time will give assistance to many more. In the direction of this movement we have gained useful experience for the larger program to be undertaken this year.

A similar plan is underway in behalf of the Schwarzmeer Deutsche. It is sufficiently advanced to assure success.

(5) The work of C.L.W.R., has been receiving considerable publicity by radio and press, secular and church. Our office has been a clearing house for many immigration problems. This has been directed by the executive secretary, Rev. C. Monk. We are also pleased that he has attended church conferences and conventions which required considerable travelling.

\* \* \*

You have observed that our program emphasized more and more the resettling of refugees in Canada. This kind of relief meets the basic needs of our unfortunate brethren. Because of many natural advantages, Canada is a desirable haven and future homeland for these victims of man's aggression.

Our efforts have been primarily in behalf of refugees (Volksdeutsche) who are in a much less fortunate position than the displaced persons, both in respect to food and opportunities to emigrate. The International Refugee Organization (United Nations) assists the displaced persons among whom the proportion of Lutherans is not large. We are the only organization to whom the refugees (Volksdeutsche), whose numbers embrace millions of Lutherans, may turn for help.

Under the Close Relative Scheme, inaugurated by the Canadian Government, our records show that a substantial number of Lutherans of this group are brought forward to Canada under our auspices each month (800). It is anticipated that the pace of this movement will slacken in the coming months and years.

Last November, Dr. Herzer and Rev. Monk, representing C.L.W.R., submitted at Ottawa a petition requesting that refugees (Volksdeutsche) having no relatives here be permitted to enter Canada. Finally, following lengthy discussions and negotiations on the part of our

representatives, approval of the government was granted. The provisions of the petition will be reviewed later in this meeting and need not be described now.

I do feel, however, that I should tell you of further progress made by Rev. Monk and Dr. Herzer in trying to implement the carrying out of this wider plan of resettling of refugees. Rev. Monk attended an executive committee meeting of the Canada Committee, described the proposed program and received its endorsement. Last week, Dr. Herzer met with the Emergency Planning Council in St. Louis; and Rev. Monk returned this week from New York following his meeting with the U.S. Committee, Lutheran World Federation. To both groups the entire matter was presented in detail. Later today we shall ask each of these men to report to you on the results of these conferences.

Now let us turn to the work at hand. Many of the matters I have referred to will be dealt with more thoroughly in the reports to be submitted. Throughout our deliberations may we continue to be mindful of Christ's redeeming love toward us and may we reflect this love in our thinking and actions in behalf of our unfortunate brethren.

— Rex. H. SCHNEIDER

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## FIRST LUTHERAN RECEIVES VALUABLE GIFTS

Mr. Haldor Halderson of Victoria, B.C., recently of Winnipeg, presented the First Lutheran Church with a Webster Recording Machine, on his recent visit to his old home city. The Easter service at the church had been recorded on this machine, and was being taken around to the homes of some of the aged and sick people in the community who are unable to attend church, by members of the Board of Deacons. Upon learning that this machine was borrowed, Mr. Halldorsson decided that the church should own such an instrument, and promptly wrote out a check for \$200.00 to cover the purchase.

The Vestry of the church has been thoroughly renovated in recent weeks. This was accomplished through the initiative of the Board of Deacons who performed most of the labor in their spare time. A complete paint job was done, a clothes closet and a book case built, beautiful curtains hung, and a very good carpet, a gift from Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Summers, placed on the floor. A venetian shade on the Vestry window is a present from Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Stephenson.